



Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation

September 30, 2009

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COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY

TO: Dr. Terry Holliday
Kentucky Commissioner of Education

FROM: Ruth Holmes for Judi Shellenberger, Executive Director

RE: Call for Entries for Christopher Columbus Awards,
a National Middle School Competition

FAX NUMBER: (502) 564-5680

PAGES: 3 (including cover)

The Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation, a Federal government agency located in Auburn, New York, is pleased to announce the national Call for Entries for the 2009-2010 *Christopher Columbus Awards* program. Now in its 14th year, the awards challenge sixth, seventh and eighth grade school students to explore opportunities for positive change in their communities.

I have attached the Call for Entries for your use. All relevant information about how to enter the competition, including the Entry Components and Checklist, Entry Forms, Student Guide and Coach's/Teacher's Guide are available online at: www.christophercolumbusawards.com. The deadline for receipt of the complete Entry packet is **Monday, February 8, 2010**.

I would appreciate your assistance in getting the word out about the award. I encourage you to share the information with your staff, friends and associates. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact: (800) 291-6020 ext. 3154 or email: success@edumedia.com.

Thank you for your assistance in supporting the 2009-2010 *Christopher Columbus Awards*.

[Note: A 'pdf' version of the Call for Entries is available upon request by calling: (315) 258-0090 or email: ccffruth@roadrunner.com.]



CALL FOR ENTRIES

Contact: Stephanie Hallman
shallman@mmseducation.com
(800) 291-6020 X 3154

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS AWARDS CHALLENGES TEAMS OF MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS TO SOLVE COMMUNITY PROBLEMS USING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Finalist Teams Win Trip to Walt Disney World®

AUBURN, NEW YORK—September 29, 2009—Now in its 14th year, the **Christopher Columbus Awards**, a free program which challenges middle school students to explore opportunities for positive change in their communities, announces the program's **Call for Entries for the 2009-2010 school year**. Teams of up to four students and a coach identify a community issue and use the scientific process to solve it. Finalist teams win an all-expense-paid trip to Walt Disney World® where they compete for gold medals and U.S. Savings Bonds.

In its 13 years, the program **has attracted over 15,500 'everyday' students** from all across the U.S., and appeals to educators who are increasingly looking to develop critical thinking skills in students while meeting State and Federal standards. The program:

- is a **cross-curricular activity that helps meet both NCLB and State standards**
- helps address the performance gap in U.S. science education by encouraging critical thinking skills in all students
- encourages community service.

Deadline and How to Enter

The **Christopher Columbus Awards** is **free** to enter. For more information and competition guidelines, call **1-800-291-6020** or visit www.christophercolumbusawards.com. Coaches may be teachers, parents, community leaders or mentors. Teams do not need to be affiliated with a school to enter. The **deadline for receipt of entries is Monday, February 8, 2010.**

- MORE -

FEATURING THE COLUMBUS FOUNDATION COMMUNITY GRANT

SPONSORED BY THE CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS FELLOWSHIP FOUNDATION
105 Terry Drive, Suite 120 • Newtown, PA 18940-3425 • tel: 800-291-6020
fax: 215-579-8589 • email: succes@edumedia.com • www.christophercolumbusawards.com

Who Wins?

One of the 2007 winning teams was a group of students from West Branch, Iowa, who felt there was an environmental hazard caused by used oil filters being disposed of in household trash. They developed an awareness campaign to educate the public about the dangers of placing used oil filters in landfills, and worked with their State legislature to pass an oil filter recycling State law. Past winners also included a group of Native American girls who built a study hall on Crow Indian Reservation in Montana out of straw bales; and a group of students from Pennsylvania who developed a handheld grocery scanner that quickly deciphers food labels to detect whether the item contains allergens such as dyes or nuts. Six teams have received patents on their ideas. Some entrants have decided to major in science in college as a result of becoming involved in the program. A complete list of past winners can be found at: www.christophercolumbusawards.com.

Strong Participation from Girls, Minorities

The program attracts many students who may not typically enter a science competition. More than half of the entrants are girls, and more than a fourth are from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds, statistics that are higher than those of most science competitions.

About the Sponsor

The **Christopher Columbus Awards** program is sponsored by the Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation (www.columbusfdn.org) and is endorsed by the National Middle School Association. The Foundation is an independent Federal government agency created by Congress in 1992 to encourage and support research, study and labor designed to produce new discoveries in all fields of endeavor for the benefit of mankind.

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